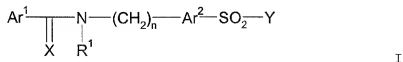


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound according to formula I



with its geometrical isomers, in an optically active form as enantiomers, diastereomers, as well as in the form of racemates, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

Ar<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyridyl, and optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy carbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halo, hydroxy, nitro, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, acyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> thioalkoxy;

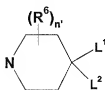
Ar<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of thienyl, furanyl, and pyridyl;

X is O or S;

$R^1$  is hydrogen or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl group, or  $R^1$  forms a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring with  $Ar^1$ ;

$n$  is an integer from 0 to 5;

$Y$  is a piperidino group of the formula



wherein

$L^1$  and  $L^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkynyl, and substituted or unsubstituted cyclic  $C_4$ - $C_8$ -alkyl optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with aryl or heteroaryl; or  $L^1$  and  $L^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, aryl- $C_1$ - $C_8$ -alkyl, heteroaryl- $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $-C(O)-OR^3$ ,  $-C(O)-R^3$ ,  $-C(O)-NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}C(O)R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}C(O)NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-(SO)R^3$ ,  $-(SO_2)R^3$ ,  $-NHOSO_2R^3$ , and  $-SO_2NR^{3'}R^3$ ,

with  $R^3$  and  $R^{3'}$  being substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_2$ - $C_6$ -alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or

unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl-  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-  
alkyl;

said aryl or heteroaryl groups being optionally  
substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-  
alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl,  
aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfonyl,  
sulfoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-thioalkoxy; and

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from the group consisting of  
hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, substituted  
or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, OH, halogen, nitro, cyano,  
sulfonyl, and oxo (=O); and

n' is an integer from 0 to 4;

with the proviso that if Ar<sup>1</sup> is 4-chlorophenyl, then  
X is O, R<sup>1</sup> is H, Ar<sup>2</sup> is thienyl, and Y is not para-substituted  
by 2-hydroxyethyl;

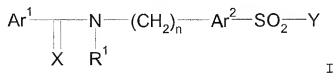
~~with the further proviso that if Ar<sup>3</sup> is phenyl, then  
X is O, R<sup>3</sup> is H, Ar<sup>2</sup> is thienyl, and Y is not substituted in  
its 2-position by a benzo-[5,6]-cyclohepta-[1,2b]-pyridine or  
a-benzo-[5,6]-cyclohept-[3,4]ene-[1,2b]-pyridine;~~

~~with the final proviso that if X is oxygen, then Y  
shall not be substituted by a group (C=O)N(R,R') at the  $\alpha$ -  
position of the sulfonamide nitrogen in which R and R' are~~

~~independently chosen from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl aryl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl heteroaryl;~~

wherein the term "substituted" means that the group that is substituted is substituted with from its 5 substituents, said substituents being a group selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl aryl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl heteroaryl; C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl; C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl; primary, secondary or tertiary amino groups; quaternary ammonium groups; acyl; acyloxy; acylamino; aminocarbonyl; alkoxycarbonyl; aryl; heteroaryl; carboxyl; cyano; halogen; hydroxyl; mercapto; nitro; sulfoxy; sulfonyl; alkoxy, thioalkoxy; and trihalomethyl.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a sulfonamide compound according to formula I



with its geometrical isomers, in an optically active form as enantiomers, ~~diastereomers~~diastereoisomers, as well as in the form of racemates, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

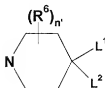
X is O or S;

$\text{Ar}^1$  and  $\text{Ar}^2$  are a substituted or unsubstituted aryl or heteroaryl group with the proviso that  $\text{Ar}^2$  is neither 1,3-phenylene or 1,4-phenylene and  $\text{Ar}^2$  is not phenylene or quinazoline that is substituted by nitro, hydroxyl, or 3,4-dichlorophenyl-amine;

$\text{R}^1$  is hydrogen or a  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl group, or  $\text{R}^1$  forms a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring with  $\text{Ar}^1$ ;

$n$  is an integer from 0 to 5;

$\text{Y}$  is a piperidino group of the formula



wherein

$\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ -alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ -alkynyl, and substituted or unsubstituted cyclic  $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with aryl or heteroaryl; or  $\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, aryl- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl, heteroaryl- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -

alkyl,  $-C(O)-OR^3$ ,  $-C(O)-R^3$ ,  $-C(O)-NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}C(O)R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}C(O)NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-(SO)R^3$ ,  $-(SO_2)R^3$ ,  $-NHSO_2R^3$ , and  $-SO_2NR^{3'}R^3$ ,

with  $R^3$  and  $R^{3'}$  being substituents independently selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1-C_6$ -alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_2-C_6$ -alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl- $C_1-C_6$ -alkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl- $C_1-C_6$ -alkyl;

said aryl or heteroaryl groups being optionally substituted  $C_1-C_6$ -alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$ -alkoxy,  $C_2-C_6$ -alkenyl,  $C_2-C_6$ -alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl,  $C_1-C_6$ -alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, or  $C_1-C_6$ -thioalkoxy; and

$R^6$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1-C_6$ -alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1-C_6$ -alkoxy, OH, halogen, nitro, cyano, sulfonyl, and oxo ( $=O$ ); and

$n'$  is an integer from 0 to 4;

with the proviso that if Y is substituted at the  $\beta$ -position of the piperidino- nitrogen by a benzo[5, 6]cyclohepta[1, 2b]pyridine, or a benzo[5, 6]cyclohept [3,4] ene [1, 2b]pyridine, while  $Ar^2$  is thienyl, X is oxygen,  $R^1$  is hydrogen and n is 1,  $Ar^1$  shall not be a phenyl group;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~with the final proviso that if X is oxygen, Y shall not be substituted by a group (C=O)N(R,R') at the  $\alpha$  position of the sulfonamide nitrogen in which R and R' are independently chosen from hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl-aryl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl heteroaryl.~~

**3-4. (Cancelled)**

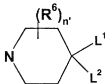
**5. (Previously Presented)** A sulfonamide compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, and optionally substituted by C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfonyl and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-thioalkoxy.

**6. (Previously Presented)** A sulfonamide compound according to claim 5, wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl.

**7. (Previously Presented)** A sulfonamide compound according to claim 5, wherein Ar<sup>2</sup> is thienyl or furanyl group.

**8. (Previously Presented)** A sulfonamide compound according to claim 1, wherein  $\text{Ar}^1$  is selected from the group consisting of a 4-chlorophenyl, nitrophenyl, hydroxyphenyl, alkoxy phenyl, pyridyl, 3,4,-dihydroxyphenyl, and X is O,  $\text{R}^1$  is hydrogen, n is 1,  $\text{Ar}^2$  is thienyl or furanyl.

**9. (Currently Amended)** A sulfonamide compound according to claim 8, wherein Y is



$(\text{R}^6)_{n'}$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkoxy, OH, halogen, nitro, cyano, sulfonyl, and oxo;  $n'$  is an integer of from 0 to 4; and

wherein  $\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  are independently selected from each other from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$  alkenyl; or  $\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted cyclic  $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_8$  alkyl optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with aryl or heteroaryl, aryl- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$  alkyl,

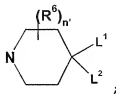
heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, -C(O)-OR<sup>3</sup>, -C(O)-R<sup>3</sup>, -C(O)-NR<sup>3'</sup>R<sup>3</sup>, -  
NR<sup>3'</sup>R<sup>3</sup>; -NR<sup>3'</sup>C(O)R<sup>3'</sup>-NR<sup>3'</sup>C(O)R<sup>3</sup>, -NR<sup>3'</sup>C(O)NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>3</sup>-NR<sup>3'</sup>C(O)R<sup>3</sup>R<sup>3</sup>, -  
(SO)R<sup>3</sup>, -(SO<sub>2</sub>)R<sup>3</sup>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup>, and -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>3'</sup>;

with R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>3'</sup> being substituents independently  
selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or  
unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>  
alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or  
unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl-  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-  
alkyl;

said aryl or heteroaryl groups being optionally  
substituted with a member selected from the group consisting  
of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkynyl,  
amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl,  
carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfonyl, sulfoxy  
and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-thioalkoxy.

**10. (Previously Presented)** A sulfonamide compound  
according to claim 9, wherein R<sup>6</sup> is H, L<sup>2</sup> is H, L<sup>1</sup> is a 5-  
membered cyclic group containing 3 heteroatoms or L<sup>1</sup> is -C(O)-  
R<sup>3</sup>, or -NHR<sup>3</sup>;

wherein Y is



$n'$  is an integer of from 0 to 4;

with  $R^3$  being a substituent selected from the group comprising or consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aryl- $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl and heteroaryl- $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl;

said aryl or heteroaryl groups being optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, nitro, or sulfonyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A sulfonamide compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

4-chloro-N-{5-[4-(3-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenylamino)-piperidine-1-sulfonyl]-thiophen-2-ylmethyl}-benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(4-fluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(4-hydroxy-4-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(benzoylpiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-({5-[(4-benzylpiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-(2,4-difluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

~~tert-butyl-1-[(5-[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl]thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-ylcarbamate;~~

4-chloro-N-({5-(piperidin-1-ylsulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-({3-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-({5-[(4-benzyl-4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

N-({5-({4-[(2-tert-butyl-1H-indol-5-yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-({4-[(phenylacetyl)amino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-[(5-({4-(2H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(4-chlorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-{[5-({4-[benzyl(methyl)amino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(5-thien-2-yl-1H-pyrazol-3-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylbenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[5-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1H-pyrazol-3-yl]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-({5-[4-(4-anilinopiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

2-{1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}-2H-1,2,3-benzotriazole-5-carboxylic acid;

methyl 1-{1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazole-5-carboxylate;

methyl 1-{1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazole-6-carboxylate;

methyl 2-{1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}-2H-1,2,3-benzotriazole-5-carboxylate;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(6-chloro-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-{[4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(7-aza-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

1-{1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazole-5-carboxylic acid;

1-{1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazole-6-carboxylic acid;

N-[(5-{[4-(2-amino-9H-purin-9-yl)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(9H-purin-9-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(6-amino-9H-purin-9-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[4-{6-nitro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl}piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[4-{5-nitro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl}piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(2H-1,2,3-triazol-2-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-propylanilino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(dimethylamino)anilino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

methyl 3-({1-[5-({[4-chlorobenzoyl]amino)-methyl}thien-2-yl]sulfonyl}piperidin-4-yl)amino)-benzoate;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[4-{3-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

3-({1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}amino)benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-{2-nitro-4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(4-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-{2-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-({5-({4-[4-(aminocarbonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(3-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{ [5-({4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[ (5-{ [4-(2-aminoanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[ (5-{ [4-(2-hydroxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[ (5-{ [4-(4-hydroxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[ (5-{ [4-(3-toluidino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[ (5-{ [4-(3-tert-butylanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[ (5-{ [4-(2-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{ [5-({4-[ (2,2-dioxido-1,3-dihydro-2-benzothien-5-yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[ (5-{ [4-(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-5-ylamino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[ (5-{ [4-(4-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[ (5-{ [4-({3-nitropyridin-2-yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N- { [5- ( { 4- [ (3-aminopyridin-2-yl) amino] piperidin-1-yl) sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl } -4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N- [ (5- { [4- (pyrimidin-2-ylamino) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] benzamide;

4-chloro-N- ( { 5- [ (4- { [4- (trifluoromethyl) pyrimidin-2-yl] amino} piperidin-1-yl) sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl) benzamide;

4-chloro-N- [ (5- { [4- (3-ethylanilino) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] benzamide;

4-chloro-N- [ (5- { [4- (5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-ylamino) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] benzamide;

4-chloro-N- [ (5- { [4- (quinolin-5-ylamino) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] benzamide;

4-chloro-N- [ (5- { [4- (quinolin-8-ylamino) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] benzamide;

4-nitro-N- ( { 5- [ (4- { 3-  
[ (trifluoromethyl) sulfonyl] anilino} piperidin-1-yl) sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl) benzamide;

N- [ (5- { [4- (1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] -3-nitrobenzamide;

N- [ (5- { [4- (2,4-difluorobenzoyl) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] -4-nitrobenzamide;

N- [ (5- { [4- (1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl) piperidin-1-yl] sulfonyl] thien-2-yl] methyl] -4-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-{[5-({4-[3-(dimethylamino)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

3-nitro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-{[5-({4-[3-(~~amino~~sulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

methyl 3-{[1-({5-[(3-nitrobenzoyl)amino]methyl)-thien-2-yl}sulfonyl)-piperidin-4-yl]amino}benzoate;

N-{[5-({4-[3-(aminocarbonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{3-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

3-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

3-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{2-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(4-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{4-  
[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-{[5-({4-[4-(aminocarbonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-nitrobenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(3-propylanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(3-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-nitrobenzamide;

4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-{[5-({4-[3-(dimethylamino)anilino]piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-nitrobenzamide;

4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-propylanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-nitro-N-{[5-({4-[3-  
(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-  
yl)methyl}benzamide;

4-nitro-N-{[5-({4-[3-  
(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-  
yl)methyl}benzamide;

~~N-{[5-({4-[3-(aminosulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-nitrobenzamide;~~

methyl 3-([1-({5-[(4-nitrobenzoyl)amino)methyl]-  
thien-2-yl)sulfonyl)piperidin-4-yl]amino)benzoate;

3-([1-({5-[(4-nitrobenzoyl)amino)methyl]thien-2-  
yl)sulfonyl)piperidin-4-yl]amino)benzamide;

4-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{3-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

4-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{2-methoxyanilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

4-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{2-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

N-({5-[(4-{4-chloroanilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-nitrobenzamide;

4-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{4-  
[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

N-({5-[(4-{4-(aminocarbonyl)anilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-nitrobenzamide;

N-({5-[(4-anilinopiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-  
yl)methyl}-3-nitrobenzamide;

N-({5-[(4-anilinopiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-  
yl)methyl}-4-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N-({5-[(4-{3-nitropyridin-2-  
yl)amino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

N- { [5- { [4- { (2,2-dioxido-1,3-dihydro-2-benzothien-5-yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-nitrobenzamide;

N- [ (5- { [4- (2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-5-ylamino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N- [ (5- { [4- (2-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

3-nitro-N- [ (5- { [4- (4-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N- [ (5- { [4- (3-tert-butylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N- [ (5- { [4- (2-phenylethyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

~~3-nitro-N- { [5- { [4- { (3-morpholin-4-yl)sulfonyl]anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;~~

4-nitro-N- [ (5- { [4- (pyrimidin-2-ylamino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N- { [5- { [4- { (3-aminopyridin-2-yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-nitrobenzamide;

4-nitro-N- [ (5- { [4- { (3-nitropyridin-2-yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N- [ (5- { [4- (2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-5-ylamino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-nitrobenzamide;

4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(4-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(3-tert-butylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-nitrobenzamide;

4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

~~4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-(morpholin-4-yl)sulfonyl]anilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;~~

N-[(5-{[4-(2-aminoanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-[(3-aminopyridin-2-yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(2-nitro-4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(3-ethylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

3-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-ylamino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-propylphenoxy)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(2,4-difluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-nitrobenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(2,4-difluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

2-Hydroxy-N-({5-[4-{3-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl)benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-2-hydroxybenzamide;

3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(3-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-({4-[3-(dimethylamino)anilino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl)-3-methoxybenzamide;

3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(3-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

3-methoxy-N-({5-[4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

3-methoxy-N-([5-([4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

methyl 3-([1-([5-([3-methoxybenzoyl]amino)-methyl]thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl)amino)-benzoate;

N-([5-([4-[3-(aminocarbonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

3-methoxy-N-([5-([4-(2-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-([5-([4-[3-nitroanilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-([5-([4-[2-nitroanilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-([5-([4-[4-(aminocarbonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-([5-([4-[3-chloroanilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-([5-([4-[4-chloroanilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

3-methoxy-N-([5-([4-([4-(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-([5-([4-[3-[amino(imino)methyl]anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

3-methoxy-N-({5-[ (4-{3-  
[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;  
N-({5-[ (4-anilinopiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-  
yl)methyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;  
N-[(5-{[4-(4-hydroxyanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;  
N-[(5-{[4-(2-hydroxyanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;  
3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(pyrimidin-2-ylamino)piperidin-  
1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
N-{[5-({4-[ (3-aminopyridin-2-yl)amino]piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;  
N-[(5-{[4-({3-nitropyridin-2-yl)amino]piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;  
N-{[5-({4-[ (2,2-dioxido-1,3-dihydro-2-benzothien-5-  
yl)amino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-  
methoxybenzamide;  
N-[(5-{[4-(2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-5-ylamino)piperidin-  
1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-3-methoxybenzamide;  
3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(2-propylanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;  
3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(4-propylanilino)piperidin-1-  
yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(3-tert-butylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

~~3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(3-morpholin-4-ylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;~~

3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(3-ethylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

3-methoxy-N-[(5-{[4-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-ylamino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridine-3-carboxamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3,4-dihydroxybenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(hexyloxy)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(heptanoyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-propylanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(dimethylamino)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-{[5-({4-[3-(methylsulfonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

methyl 3-({1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}-2-furyl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}amino)benzoate;

3-({1-[(5-{[(4-chlorobenzoyl)amino]methyl}-2-furyl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}amino)benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-{3-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]-2-furyl)methyl}benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(2-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}-2-furyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-{2-nitroanilino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]-2-furyl)methyl}benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(4-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]-2-furyl)methyl}benzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]-2-furyl)methyl}benzamide;

N-{[5-({4-[4-(aminocarbonyl)anilino]piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]-2-furyl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-({5-[(4-{3-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]-2-furyl)methyl}benzamide; and

N-({5-[(4-anilinopiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]-2-furyl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide; ~~and~~

**12. (Previously Presented)** A sulfonamide compound according to claim 11, which is selected from the group consisting of:

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(2,4-difluorobenzoyl)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}benzamide;

N-({5-[(4-anilinopiperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl}-4-chlorobenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

N-[(5-{[4-(1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-4-chlorobenzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-[3-propylanilino]piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[4-(4-chloroanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-nitro-N-[(5-{[4-(3-methoxyanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide;

methyl 3-{[1-({5-[(4-nitrobenzoyl)amino]methyl}thien-2-yl)sulfonyl]piperidin-4-yl}amino}benzoate;

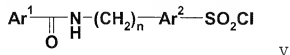
N-[(5-{[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-2-hydroxybenzamide; and

N-[(5-{[4-(2-nitroanilino)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]-3-methoxybenzamide.

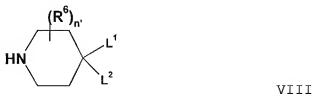
**13-19. (Cancelled)**

**20. (Previously Presented)** A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one sulfonamide compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

21. (Currently Amended) Process for the preparation of a sulfonamide compound according to claim 1, comprising reacting a sulfonyl chloride according to formula V



with an amine according to formula VIII



whereby

n is an integer of from 0 to 5,

n' is an integer of from 0 to 4,

$\text{R}_6\text{-}\underline{\text{R}}^6$  is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkoxy, OH, halogen, nitro, cyano, sulfonyl and oxo;

$\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$  alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$  alkenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$  alkynyl; or  $\text{L}^1$  and  $\text{L}^2$  are independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, aryl-  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl, heteroaryl-  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$  alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted cyclic  $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_8$  alkyl

optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with aryl or heteroaryl,  $-C(O)R^3$ ,  $-C(O)OR^3$ ,  $-C(O)-NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}C(O)R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}C(O)NR^3R^3$ ,  $-NR^{3'}C(O)R^3R^3$ ,  $-(SO)R^3$ ,  $(SO_2)R^3$ ,  $NHSO_2R^3$  and  $SO_2NR^{3'}R^3$ ;

with  $R^3$  and  $R^{3'}$  being substituents independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl-  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl-  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl;

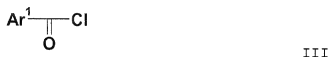
said aryl or heteroaryl groups being optionally substituted  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_2-C_6$  alkenyl,  $C_2-C_6$  alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl,  $C_2-C_6$  alkoxy carbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfonyl, sulfoxy and  $C_1-C_6$  thioalkoxy.

**22. (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 21, wherein said sulfonyl chloride of formula V is obtained by

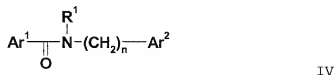
a) coupling an amine of formula II:



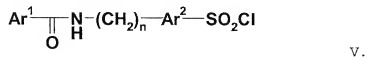
with an acyl chloride of formula III:



to provide an amide of formula IV:



b) sulfonating the amide of formula IV to provide the sulfonyl chloride of formula V



23-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The sulfonamide compound according to claim 1 wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 3.

28. (Previously Presented) The sulfonamide compound according to claim 27 wherein n is 1.

29. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 2 wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 3.

30. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 29 wherein n is 1.

31. (Currently Amended) The composition according to  
claim 3-2 wherein n is 1 or 2.

32-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The sulfonamide compound  
according to claim 5 wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group is  
trihalomethyl.

36-41. (Cancelled)